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SECRET

CITE: [REDACTED]

DIST 28 OCTOBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 24 OCTOBER 1972, AND AS STATED

SUBJECT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT CABINET MEETING OF
24 OCTOBER 1972: DISCUSSION ON THE FLYING OF THE
NATIONAL FLAG, ISSUANCE OF A COMMUNIQUE ON THE
PENALTIES FOR AIDING OR ABETTING THE ENEMY, AND
APPROVAL OF A DRAFT DECREE LAW DEFINING A STATE
OF EMERGENCY

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON (24 OCTOBER 1972) FIELD NO. [REDACTED]

1. AT THE 24 OCTOBER 1972 VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT (GVN)

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CABINET MEETING, MINISTER OF ECONOMY PHAM KIN N G O C INFORMED THE CABINET THAT PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN T H I E U HAD ORDERED HIS MINISTRY TO ARRANGE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ONE MILLION SOUTH VIETNAMESE FLAGS PRIOR TO 30 OCTOBER AND HAD AUTHORIZED NGOC TO USE THE FACILITIES OF THE FOUR MAJOR TEXTILE PRODUCING COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY IN FILLING THE ORDER. THE FLAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, NGO CONTINUED, THROUGH THE MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS AND THE PROVINCE CHIEFS TO ALL DISTRICT, VILLAGE AND HAMLET ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PERMIT THE FLYING OF THE FLAGS FROM 31 OCTOBER THROUGH 2 NOVEMBER AS ORDERED BY PRESIDENT THIEU IN HONOR OF NATIONAL AND ARMED FORCES DAY ON 1 NOVEMBER.

2. ADDITIONALLY, NGOC ADDED, THE FLYING OF THE FLAGS WILL BE A SPECIFIC TEST OF GVN CONTROL OF RURAL AREAS. THE ABSENCE OF THE FLAGS WILL BE CONSIDERED AN INDICATION THAT THE AREA IS CONTROLLED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) RATHER THAN BY THE GVN. THE CABINET APPROVED THE EXPENDITURE OF VN \$180 MILLION (ABOUT US \$414,000) TO PURCHASE ONE MILLION FLAGS OF APPROXIMATELY 1/35 METERS BY 90 CENTIMETERS. PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN K H I E M ORDERED THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO ADVISE

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ALL PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICES TO FACILITATE THE PRODUCTION OF ANOTHER MILLION PAPER FLAGS BY SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. KHIEM ADDED THAT PRIVATE CITIZENS COULD MAKE THEIR OWN FLAGS WITH MATERIAL WHICH THEY MIGHT HAVE AVAILABLE. KHIEM ALSO ORDERED DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR LE CONG C H A T TO ISSUE AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CALLING FOR THE FLYING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG FROM EVERY HOME DURING THE THREE-DAY PERIOD.

3. MINISTER OF JUSTICE LE VAN T H U REPORTED THAT PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR MILITARY AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, LIEUTENANT GENERAL DANG VAN Q U A N G, HAD ORDERED HIM TO PREPARE A DRAFT LAW TO PRESCRIBE SPECIFIC PENALTIES FOR CONSPIRING WITH, AIDING OR ABETTING, THE VIET CONG OR THE PRG DURING ANY CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THU INFORMED THE CABINET THAT A NEW DECREE LAW WAS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE ORDINANCE #4 OF 21 AUGUST 1956 AND DECREE LAW 4-65 OF 19 JULY 1965 ARE STILL VALID AND PERTINENT. THU RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE SUMMARIZING THE PROVISIONS OF THE TWO ORDINANCES. THE COMMUNIQUE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH WIDE DISTRIBUTION TO THE NEWSPAPERS AND THROUGH RADIO AND TELEVISION. PRIME MINISTER KHIEM APPROVED A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE PRESENTED BY

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THU AND ORDERED MINISTER OF INFORMATION TRUONG BUU D I E N TO
RELEASE IT TO THE NEWS MEDIA.

4. MINISTER OF JUSTICE LE VAN T H U PRESENTED A DRAFT OF
A DECREE LAW DEFINING A STATE OF EMERGENCY. HE EXPLAINED THAT
IN 1964 THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECLARED THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY
EXISTED IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY; IN 1965 A STATE OF WAR HAD BEEN
DECLARED; AND NOW THE COUNTRY IS OPERATING UNDER MARTIAL LAW.
THU CONTINUED THAT PRESIDENT THIEU DESIRED TO HAVE THE DEFINITION
OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY UPDATED IN A DECREE LAW IN THE EVENT THAT
THE MARTIAL LAW OR STATUS OF WAR CONDITIONS ARE TERMINATED IN THE
NEAR FUTURE. THE DRAFT DECREE LAW WAS APPROVED AND FORWARDED
TO PRESIDENT THIEU FOR HIS SIGNATURE.

5. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY (AMBASSADOR BUNKER, DEPUTY
AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE, MINISTER COUNSELOR POLITICAL ONLY) MACV
(GENERAL WEYAND, MAJOR GENERAL GODDING ONLY) AT SAIGON: SENT
TO CINCPAC (EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) PARIS FOR
AMBASSADOR PORTER AND MR. ISHAM ONLY.

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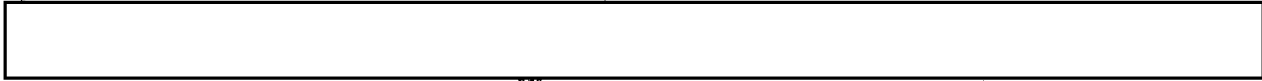
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